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Letter dated 18 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, under the presidency of the United States of America, the Security Council will hold a thematic meeting on the denuclearization of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on Friday, 28 April 2017. To set the stage for this discussion, the United States has prepared the attached concept note (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nikki Haley
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 18 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council thematic meeting on the denuclearization of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to be held on 28 April 2017

Overview

The pursuit of weapons of mass destruction by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea represents one of the gravest threats to international peace and security that the Security Council faces. Despite six resolutions adopted by the Council since 2006 requiring that the country cease its prohibited activities, its illicit activities have accelerated. In 2016 alone, it conducted two nuclear tests and 24 ballistic missile launches and openly stated that its ballistic missiles are intended to deliver nuclear weapons strikes both regionally and intercontinentally. In 2017, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has continued to pursue the development of an operational nuclear arsenal while publicly declaring that it would conduct pre-emptive strikes using nuclear weapons.

The Security Council has repeatedly made it clear that the international community will not accept the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a nuclear state. However, the Council has also repeatedly called for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks and has reiterated its support for the commitments set forth in the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005, including that the goal of the Talks was the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner.

The most recent actions by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea make it clear that further international pressure is required for the country to change its behaviour if there is to be any hope for meaningful denuclearization talks to resume. The country's accelerated and increasingly dangerous provocations should only serve to strengthen the international community's resolve to counter such prohibited activities, including by implementing all Security Council sanctions. For the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the only peaceful path to a secure, economically prosperous future is to abandon its development of nuclear weapons, ballistic missiles and other weapons of mass destruction.

It is now time for all Member States to make it clear to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that further provocations are unacceptable and to take steps to show that there are consequences to the country's unlawful conduct. However, there are also incentives: the benefits of responsible membership in the community of nations await those who abide by international obligations, standards and norms, especially Security Council resolutions.

The United States will therefore host a thematic meeting at the ministerial level in a briefing format at 10 a.m. on Friday, 28 April 2017. The meeting will give Security Council members an opportunity to discuss ways to maximize the impact of existing Council measures and show their resolve to respond to further provocations with significant new measures.

Briefers

The Secretary-General.

Outcome

While no end product is envisaged, we encourage Security Council members to signal the collective intention to take further significant measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the future if it continues to violate its international obligations. Council members could recommit to implementing all existing and future sanctions to maximize pressure on the country to return to meaningful negotiations on denuclearization.